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First question of Fatwa No. 5926

Q 1: Is it permissible due to fear to offer Salah (Prayer) while riding a camel?

A: It is permissible to perform obligatory Salah while a person is riding a camel whether or not it is moving, if they fear to be harmed by mud, rain, or so on. Ya`la ibn Murrah (may Allah be pleased with him) said: ﴿ While the Prophet (peace be upon him) was with his Sahabah (Companions) on a journey it was raining heavily, the ground was muddy, and the time of prayer became due. The Prophet (peace be upon him) commanded the Mu'adhdhin to pronounce the call to Prayer and the Iqamah. Then, the Prophet (peace be upon him) led the Sahabah in Prayer by bowing his head and making his prostration lower than his bowing. ﴾ (Related by Ahmad and Al-Tirmidhy who stated, 'Muslim scholars act upon it.'

Similarly, it is permissible to perform the obligatory Salah while riding a camel in case of fear of being separated from the caravan, fearing an enemy, or the inability to remount the camel after dismounting. A person has to direct himself towards the Qiblah (direction faced for Prayer towards the Ka`bah) as long as he can, he should do Ruku` (bowing) and Sujud (prostration) and make his Sujud lower than his Ruku`. This is based on the Hadith mentioned above and on the generality of the saying of Allah (may He be Exalted): ﴿ So keep your duty to Allâh and fear Him as much as you can... ﴾

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May Allah grant us success! May peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and Companions!

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